

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 39

[Docket No. 2002-NM-119-AD; Amendment 39-13392; AD 2003-25-09]

RIN 2120-AA64

Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Model A300 B4-600 Series Airplanes, Model A300 B4-600R Series Airplanes, Model A300 C4-605R Variant F Airplanes, and Model A300 F4-605R Airplanes

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: This amendment adopts a new airworthiness directive (AD), applicable to certain Airbus Model A300 B4-600 series airplanes, Model A300 B4-600R series airplanes, Model A300 C4-605R Variant F airplanes, and Model A300 F4-605R airplanes. This AD requires modification of certain components of the 115 Volts Alternating Current (VAC) supply wiring and of the fuel gauging system. This action is necessary to prevent short circuits between 115 VAC wiring and certain fuel system electrical wire runs with subsequent overheating of the cadensicon sensor thermistor or fuel level sensor, which could be great enough to ignite fuel vapors in the fuel tank and cause an explosion. This action is intended to address the identified unsafe condition.

DATES: Effective January 27, 2004.

The incorporation by reference of certain publications listed in the regulations is approved by the Director of the Federal Register as of January 27, 2004.

ADDRESSES: The service information referenced in this AD may be obtained from Airbus Industrie, 1 Rond Point Maurice Bellonte, 31707 Blagnac Cedex, France. This information may be examined at the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Transport Airplane Directorate, Rules Docket, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington; or at the Office of the Federal Register, 800 North Capitol Street, NW., suite 700, Washington, DC.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dan Rodina, Aerospace Engineer, International Branch, ANM-116, FAA, Transport Airplane Directorate, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington 98055-4056; telephone (425) 227-2125; fax (425) 227-1149.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: A proposal to amend part 39 of the Federal Aviation Regulations (14 CFR part 39) to include an airworthiness directive (AD) that is applicable to certain Airbus Model A300 B4-600 series airplanes, Model A300 B4-600R series airplanes, Model A300 C4-605R Variant F airplanes, and Model A300 F4-605R airplanes, was published in the Federal Register on September 8, 2003 (68 FR 52862). That action proposed to require modification of certain components of the 115 Volts Alternating Current (VAC) supply wiring and of the fuel gauging system.

Comments

Interested persons have been afforded an opportunity to participate in the making of this amendment. Due consideration has been given to the comments received. The commenter supports the proposed AD.

Conclusion

After careful review of the available data, including the comment noted above, the FAA has determined that air safety and the public interest require the adoption of the rule as proposed.

Cost Impact

The FAA estimates that 70 airplanes of U.S. registry will be affected by this AD, that it will take approximately 29 work hours per airplane to accomplish the proposed actions, and that the average labor rate is \$65 per work hour. Required parts will cost approximately \$8,938 per airplane. Based on these figures, the cost impact of this AD on U.S. operators is estimated to be \$757,610, or \$10,823 per airplane.

The cost impact figure discussed above is based on assumptions that no operator has yet accomplished any of the requirements of this AD action, and that no operator would accomplish those actions in the future if this AD were not adopted. The cost impact figures discussed in AD rulemaking actions represent only the time necessary to perform the specific actions actually required by the AD. These figures typically do not include incidental costs, such as the time required to gain access and close up, planning time, or time necessitated by other administrative actions.

Regulatory Impact

The regulations adopted herein will not have a substantial direct effect on the States, on the relationship between the national government and the States, or on the distribution of power and responsibilities among the various levels of government. Therefore, it is determined that this final rule does not have federalism implications under Executive Order 13132.

For the reasons discussed above, I certify that this action (1) is not a "significant regulatory action" under Executive Order 12866; (2) is not a "significant rule" under DOT Regulatory Policies and Procedures (44 FR 11034, February 26, 1979); and (3) will not have a significant economic impact, positive or negative, on a substantial number of small entities under the criteria of the Regulatory Flexibility Act. A final evaluation has been prepared for this action and it is contained in the Rules Docket. A copy of it may be obtained from the Rules Docket at the location provided under the caption ADDRESSES.

List of Subjects in 14 CFR Part 39

Air transportation, Aircraft, Aviation safety, Incorporation by reference, Safety.

Adoption of the Amendment

Accordingly, pursuant to the authority delegated to me by the Administrator, the Federal Aviation Administration amends part 39 of the Federal Aviation Regulations (14 CFR part 39) as follows:

PART 39—AIRWORTHINESS DIRECTIVES

1. The authority citation for part 39 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 49 U.S.C. 106(g), 40113, 44701.

§ 39.13 [Amended]

2. Section 39.13 is amended by adding the following new airworthiness directive:

AIRWORTHINESS DIRECTIVE



Aircraft Certification Service
Washington, DC

U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Aviation
Administration**

We post ADs on the internet at "www.faa.gov"

The following Airworthiness Directive issued by the Federal Aviation Administration in accordance with the provisions of Title 14 of the Code of Federal Regulations (14 CFR) part 39, applies to an aircraft model of which our records indicate you may be the registered owner. Airworthiness Directives affect aviation safety and are regulations which require immediate attention. You are cautioned that no person may operate an aircraft to which an Airworthiness Directive applies, except in accordance with the requirements of the Airworthiness Directive (reference 14 CFR part 39, subpart 39.3).

2003-25-09 Airbus: Amendment 39-13392. Docket 2002-NM-119-AD.

Applicability: Model A300 B4-600 series airplanes, Model A300 B4-600R series airplanes, Model A300 C4-605R Variant F airplanes, and Model A300 F4-605R airplanes; as listed in Airbus Service Bulletin A300-28-6066, dated November 8, 2000; or Airbus Service Bulletin A300-28-6070, Revision 01, dated March 22, 2002; certificated in any category.

Compliance: Required as indicated, unless accomplished previously.

To prevent short circuits between 115 Volts Alternating Current (VAC) wiring and certain fuel system electrical wire runs with subsequent overheating of the cadensicon sensor thermistor or fuel level sensor, which could be great enough to ignite fuel vapors in the fuel tank and cause an explosion, accomplish the following:

Modification

(a) Within 4,000 flight hours after the effective date of this AD, modify elements of the electrical wiring to separate the cadensicon wiring from the 115 VAC wiring, in accordance with Airbus Service Bulletin A300-28-6066, dated November 8, 2000.

(b) Within 4,000 flight hours after the effective date of this AD, modify elements of the electrical wiring to separate the 115 VAC supply wiring of the fuel gauging system, in accordance with Airbus Service Bulletin A300-28-6070, Revision 01, dated March 22, 2002.

Alternative Methods of Compliance

(c) In accordance with 14 CFR 39.19, the Manager, International Branch, ANM-116, FAA, Transport Airplane Directorate, is authorized to approve alternative methods of compliance for this AD.

Incorporation by Reference

(d) The actions shall be done in accordance with Airbus Service Bulletin A300-28-6066, dated November 8, 2000; and Airbus Service Bulletin A300-28-6070, Revision 01, dated March 22, 2002. This incorporation by reference was approved by the Director of the Federal Register in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 552(a) and 1 CFR part 51. Copies may be obtained from Airbus Industrie, 1 Rond Point Maurice Bellonte, 31707 Blagnac Cedex, France. Copies may be inspected at the FAA, Transport Airplane Directorate, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington; or at the Office of the Federal Register, 800 North Capitol Street, NW., suite 700, Washington, DC.

Note 1: The subject of this AD is addressed in French airworthiness directives 2002-172(B) and 2002-171(B), both dated April 3, 2002.

Effective Date

(e) This amendment becomes effective on January 27, 2004.

Issued in Renton, Washington, on December 11, 2003.

Kevin M. Mullin,

Acting Manager, Transport Airplane Directorate, Aircraft Certification Service.

[FR Doc. 03-31191 Filed 12-22-03; 8:45 am]

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